

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 28, 2005, claims 1-45 are pending and are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121.

Restriction is required to one of the following:

- 1) Claims 1-15, drawn to a reagent for mass spectrometric analysis;
- 2) Claims 16-18, drawn to composition including **[i.e., a reagent according to claim 1 including]** a mixture of two tag molecules;
- 3) Claims 19-27, drawn to a kit **[comprising the reagent of claim 1]**; and
- 4) Claims 28-45, drawn to a method of identifying one or more proteins **[using a reagent according to claim 1]**.

Applicants hereby elect Group 1, i.e., claims 1-15 for further examination in this application, with traverse. An inspection of all of the claims reveals that each claim includes as a part thereof the requirements of claim 1. Therefore, if claim 1 is patentable, all of the claims are patentable. Applicants respectfully submit that restriction is improper under this factual circumstance. At most, an election should be required and, if claim 1 is patentable or if all of the claims are amended to include any recitations in claim 1, all claims should be allowed in the present application.

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Applicants hereby request that the examiner confirm that, if claim 1 is patentable or if all of the claims are amended to include any recitations in claim 1, all claims will be rejoined and allowed in this application.

An early consideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

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